

Raja Manohara's report on the 2021/2022 school year at Frolich Home and outlook 2022

The time has come to send some information for the next Newsletter. At length, I wrote in the previous letter about the work carried out, celebrations and activities of our children. As during the last months/weeks, similar activities have been carried out, I will only briefly mention these events.

On the 1st of September, all the schools- the Primary and the Higher Secondary Schools were opened for std. 1 to 12. All the students came back, but of course, some in time and some came late. The regular attendance was 45. Our children went daily to the school besides Sunday and Government Holidays through a very traffic road, a highway leading to Andhra and further which had met during the last year a few mishaps on the same route. Therefore, a 2 time trip to the school and back to the hostel had been cut off to one time trip only (*without a lunchtime into the hostel*). The girls take lunch with them when they go to the school in the morning.

All the worshipping places were functioning regularly as they were before. So the girls could attend the Friday and Sunday Services, the Sunday School, the Junior Ministry classes as before. Also the



Reformation Day of Martin Luther's one week celebration with every day program went on well. The girls took part in the every day evening 6.30 program enthusiastically, preparing themselves for the competitions such as singing, speech, poem etc. but all are based only on the life of Mr. Martin Luther.

(Picture: Scene to Luther's Theses).

The final day was the debate about who are the ones who take the initiative for the church growth and implementation of the church – whether the youth and or the elder people. From both sides 8 persons talked (youth 4 and elders 4). At the end of this debate, the Judge for this competition (mediator), gave his verdict that the youth are the initiative to implement the growth of the church. The elders have worked hard to uplift the churches when they were young and now they have trained up the youth who should take up the responsibility of the growth of the church. On the final day, all who participated in all the competitions got prizes and mostly they were all from our Home.

The harvest festival, the Christmas celebrations of the Sunday school and the youth work as well as the Christmas service took place as always in the church. Every Sunday, classes for the Sunday School children from 5 to 14 years old and for the children from 15 to 18 years old the Young Church events took place in the church afterwards from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, together with the children of our church members. Again, our home children were the largest participants in the classes led by the staff.

The Advent decorations in the church were made by our girls, mostly by hand, when school was closed because of the rain and they therefore had holidays.

Unfortunately, no decoration could be hung on the veranda of the bungalow and the dormitory because the monkeys were up to mischief there. The Advent star outside the bungalow was damaged by the monkeys. They simply ripped out the power cable and removed the bulb (*see attached photo*).



The girls prepared for the evening “Advent Devotion” the chart, wrote the bible verses and songs fitting for the day's evening meditation on the theme based on devotion. Every day 2 girls wore a white dress, recited the bible verse and lit the candle on the painted and decorated candle stand.

They look forward to the evening meditation time from 6.30 to 7.30. The Manager prepared them with the Advent Songs followed by Christmas Songs from November.

On Sunday, the 19th of December 2021, soon after the morning Sunday Service, our Hostel Christmas Function took place in front of our Bungalow in which the girls played a skit, followed by Christmas Play. All the girls during the 1st week of Advent got a Christmas Dress and went like every year to the altar to give thanks to the fosterparents and for the beautiful dress. After the Christmas Function, a delicious Chicken Briyani, (a spiced dish prepared by cooking rice mixed with pieces of meat) was served to all our children and co-workers and all those who participated in our Home Christmas Function. Every Sunday evening from 6.30 to 7.30 was Prayer cell in groups, conducted by one of the group girls – Thanksgiving and prayer for Winni, fosterparents, Donors and well-wishers of our Home, for our country- peace to restore in the world, for our Prime and Chief Ministers, and all the members of the Parliament, for our Church, School , for the Health Department, and to cut off the corona virus and for still many more need.

The 10th to 12th standard students had a Revision Test from Tuesday, the 14th to Thursday, the 23rd of December 2021. The children nearby left on the same day with their parents for Christmas Holiday and the rest on Friday morning.

Our Christmas and New Year Services all went without any disturbances as usual with a big crowd in and outside the church. Shamiana (Panthal) on 3 sides were put on. The church tower and the whole campus were illuminated by the colorful lights. The old year service took place in the evening on the 31st of December, 2021 with the Holy Communion at 6.30 and the New Year Service at 12.00 midnight. On Saturday, the 1st of January 2022, the New Year Service started at 9.00 a.m. This morning we heard the sad news that one of our former, experienced and a retired teacher Mr. John Devasahayam of our TELC Kabis Higher Secondary School worked for nearly 43 years, passed away due to a heart attack. He was working in a village -church upto the end of the previous evening to which he was made responsible by the Bishop and was preparing a program and invitation for the dedication of the New Village Church to be dedicated by the Bishop on the 8th of January 2022, but postponed to the 26th of January, the Republic Day due to his death.



(The photon shows *Mr. John Devasahayam with his woman*).

Mr. John Devasahayam is a Pastor's son, an excellent speaker with many capabilities, a very popular man with special gifts to approach the people. He is a musician. He was also giving counseling to our girls and came to our Home all the way from Tiruvallur for which we are very grateful. We had a good connection with him and his wife as well. His wife is also a Retired teacher with many special gifts.

Through both teachers, many girls and boys have come forward in life and are employed in a high position. Many old students, teachers and staff participated in the funeral service.

Our former student, Miss D. Shobana had a great respect for him and his wife's service in the school. Therefore she also came with me and a few other old and present students from Pandur as well to attend the funeral service at Tiruvallur church. After the funeral service, we spent some time with his wife which might have given her a little bit of comfort.

The next day, she came with her son, her daughter and granddaughter to see how we are. Usually in India, after the death of husbands, wives will not come out for some days, but she came with her family.

On Monday, the 3rd of January, 2022, the school reopened for the 3rd term for all the students. But 1st to 9th standard students had to go back home due to the rise of corona. The higher standards 10th to 12th were only attending the school and they also went for Pongal Holidays from the 13th of January, 2022 and were hoping to come back to the school on Wednesday, the 19th inst. but due to the high 3rd wave corona in Chingleput, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Chennai, the Government had declared leave upto the 31st of January, 2022.

Now to our great joy, the Government has given permission that all the worshipping places and many other closed sections closed due to lock down can function from Friday, the 28th of January, 2022 so our churches have started to function as usual.

The Government has declared open all the schools for 1st to 12th standard from Tuesday, the 1st of February, 2022 till the 15th inst. only on trial. After the 15th, the Chief Minister will decide whether to continue or not. It all depends upon the coronavirus reduction or increase. Our girls are expected to return on Monday, the 31st of January so that they can go to the school on the 1st February.

About the volunteers: Few months ago, the ELM sent a message that the ELM wanted to send 5 girls as volunteers to the homes and whether the Managers of the Homes were willing to have them. For Pandur 1 girl for 6 to 12 months, that means from September this year. But in the meantime, in Germany also was Corona and, therefore, it may be postponed. I do not know. After this there was no information till now about the volunteers.

We thank God for His safe protection the whole year 2021 and have brought us to the New Year 2022 despite the corona wave still there, giving people unpleasant days. Upto the end of August, 2021, the lock down took place, but cut off more rules and restrictions.

(In December 2021, the Frolich Home's state accreditation as an officially recognised youth welfare institution expired). To renew the Registration for another 5 years, the Certificate has to be issued by the Director of Social Defense under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.2015 for which we have to submit many records. But in the meanwhile, 2 or 3 former office staff had been transferred to other places and in their places, new clerks were appointed who did not know much about this important work. They told our Girls and Boys Home staff who took all the prepared records to submit to the Child Welfare Committee Unit (CWCU), Tiruvallur that the format has been changed and a new one has to be prepared in which again all the particulars have to be filled in.

Our plus II passed girls:

- 1) K.Sibitha (AC 18-11), has joined the CSI Kalyani College of Nursing and hostel on the 17th of January, 2022 soon after the Pongal Holidays.
- 2) R.Ranjitha (AC 11-13) Bachelor of Science-Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology- Botany-online class,
- 3) E.Vasika (AC 08-14) Diploma Nursing Assistant (DNA) in Mother Theresa Community College, Tiruvallur
- 4) M.Manimala (AC 24-15) Bachelor of Tamil Literature, Chennai.
- 5) R.Baby(AC-03-19) Bachelor English Literature, Christ College, Chennai,
- 6) M.Sindhu (AC 05-19), Tailoring in her village for 6 months – thereafter will be admitted in a training.

The 3rd wave of corona, was a very unpleasant experience. It was at the time of the inset of the North-East Monsoon, at the beginning of November. Most of the girls who had gone home for the main Hindu Festival “Deepavalli” returned to the Home due to rain and damages of their houses and consequently due to poverty and starving. For a few weeks, for 1 to 9th standard, the schools were closed till the 31st of January, 2022.

Our Amy Project in TELC Frolich Home for Girls has been a sanctuary for many children and vulnerable people for many years. In accordance with our objectives and in compliance with all the necessary and mandatory rules and regulations we are totally committed to ensure protection for all the children and other vulnerable people under the care of our Amy Project.

Due to the prolonged extended leave- days declared by the Government, it was a great challenge to the staff in the school and in the Home to bring the students to the normal situation. As the children are foremost from the villages, they do not have the required standard of education.

The 2nd date of the Revision Test had been postponed to the 3rd term due to corona. But this evening the Government Education Department has informed in the television that the revision test for 10th and 12th standard will take place from Wednesday the 9th of February.

The Home-work given to the students online is partly carried out at home. But most of the parents do not check the girls whether they are doing the homework online. Before going to Pongal holidays, the girls took only a few books for study. But after knowing that the leave has been extended, they came back to the hostel and took all their books to get ready for the 2nd time Revision Test, which was postponed from the 19th of January, 2022.

I was told that the parents of students went directly to the Education Minister and reported that their children are sent for house-hold work, 100 days work, child labor work, for small scale Industries, fishing etc. to earn their living for them and for their families. As most of the children and their parents do not know swimming it is very dangerous. While they use fishing rods to catch the fish, they may fall in the water and sink. It happened in our Pandur Village recently and also in a few other villages. Also few spare parts companies have been closed (wire making, basket, shoes, cane basket and pen companies) because of lock down and also the transporting facilities were not available.

After the continuous rain, we had to clear and clean all the wall-almirahs/ cupboards in our office main-hall where we place our children's individual files and other office records. Through the open terrace, rain water came in through the wall and wet all the files, records etc. Therefore, we waited for the hot sun-shine to dry up all the files and records and dried them up on the platform of our veranda office. *(Please see for this the photo).*



The securities are our 2 kids R. Rakhshitha (AC 11-18) and Rithik (AC 12-18, holding a stick to chase the monkeys and the dogs that wait to damage them. Due to the heavy hot sun, they all dried up in 2 days. Now the almirahs have to be cleaned and white –washed and we have to put the files and records back according to the alphabet order. I was shocked to see the files and also the wall almirahs- all are due to the continuous rain for nearly 2 months.

I am happy and thankful to the church community of Koelleda that they came forward to donate money this year to our Project, collected on St.Martin's Day. It is really a pity that the collection of Donation from the India Side will not be possible at this juncture where I have to face a lot of problems by collecting the donation. People will be unhappy as many of them are without work and are in stress because of the everyday increase in the food stuff, other commodities, petrol and diesel etc.

Regarding the former Extended Fostership girls:

- 1) M.Thenmozhi (AC M2), she is now in the family way – 6 months and will stop teaching therefore no M.Ed is possible,
- 2) J.Inbarani (AC 01-07) has not applied for any further training - as to my knowledge, she is not interested for undergoing any training, wants to sit a home only.
- 3) M.Malgia Margret (AC 02-09) has got a teacher job, but not yet made permanent by the School Education Department due to the closure of school because of corona. The Church Education Board Chairman has given the appointment order for her. She is going daily to the school, it will be too late for her to get the recognition to be a teacher from the Government side.

Regarding new admission in June 2022: There may be 15 vacancies including the plus II girls leaving for training 12). The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) promised to give me 10 seats when they came for inspection in November 2021. At this time, the school was functioning. But soon after this, there was a lockdown again and the schools had to be closed. Now it is of no sense to give us 10 seats as promised by the CWC in November 2021 because there are only a few months left over for the old academy year closure. So the new admissions are expected only in June 2022 for 10 and the rest will be later according to the parents going to the CWC, Tiruvallur to get the order for admitting their children in the Home. The order also will be given after the parents submit the particular papers to the CWC Office.

The final statement of the House Construction will be sent separately after I get ready with the last painting bills for paint and wages signed by the people with the closing of the account up today.

With many thanks again for all your love, concern and support to our Projects.

Yours sincerely,
Raja Manohara
(January 30 2022)

P.S. So far only 13 students have arrived. I hope the rest will come soon.

A number of our girls won a prize in a writing test that took place at school in December. They proudly received the prize in January.



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